

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Military Information from Justerbog and Grimma

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 16 to 23 February 1953

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 10 March 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS Summary of Paragraph 1 was previously reported in [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

1. The winter exercises in the Justerbog area, in which also heavy artillery participated, were still under way on 20 February 1953. Motorcycles, trucks with various loads, armored personnel carriers, T-34 tanks and 100 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and with full field pack left the Fuchsberg Kaserne by road for the training area.<sup>1</sup> The building near the guardhouse of the Turm Kaserne was occupied by a driving school course under the command of Colonel Zobolev (fnu).<sup>2</sup>

2. On 23 February, the Strassburg Kaserne, the Elsner Kaserne and the NAGEMA installation in Grimma were occupied as previously by a total of about 2,500 troops. At 11:30 a.m., a wreath depositing ceremony, in which 30 to 35 officers and about 300 soldiers participated, took place at the monument. Most of the soldiers wore tank insignia and about 60, engineer insignia.<sup>3</sup>

1. Comment. On 14 February, the same source for the first time, reported the departure of troops from the Fuchsberg Kaserne to the area west of Justerbog. See [REDACTED]. The 107th Mtrcl Bn of the 14th Gds Mecz Div apparently followed the other units to the training area prior to 20 February.

2. Comment. Only the 49th Gds Mecz Regt of the division has been carried in the Turm Kaserne. However, it is possible that, in addition to the regiment, the drivers' school of the division was stationed there. One Colonel Zobolev, during World War II, was chief of the political section and, later chief of staff of the 14th Gds Mecz Div. There is little probability that the chief of the drivers' school is the above mentioned Zobolev.

3. Comment. According to another source, at least elements of the 8th Gds Mecz Div stationed in the Elsner Kaserne in Grimma participated in the exercises in the Klosterholz area south of Grimma at about 16 February. It is undetermined whether these exercises had been completed prior to 23 February or whether source did not notice the absence of troops from the installation.

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